

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY AT

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 11, 2001

IN RE:

**PETITION OF UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY
TO CHANGE AND INCREASE CERTAIN
INTRASTATE RATES AND CHARGES SO AS TO
PERMIT IT TO EARN A FAIR AND ADEQUATE
RATE OF RETURN ON ITS PROPERTY USED AND
USEFUL IN FURNISHING TELEPHONE SERVICE
TO ITS CUSTOMERS IN TENNESSEE AND TO
ADOPT NEW AND REALISTIC DEPRECIATION
RATES FOR CENTRAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT**

**DOCKET NO.
01-00451**

**ORDER CONVENING A CONTESTED CASE PROCEEDING AND GRANTING
INTERVENTION TO THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE
AND PROTECTION DIVISION AND APPOINTING HEARING OFFICER**

This matter came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority") at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on June 26, 2001 upon the Petition (the "Petition") of the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter (the "Consumer Advocate") for leave to intervene. The Consumer Advocate alleges that United Telephone ("United") has made insufficient, general assertions regarding inadequate revenue requirements to support the proposed rate increases requested in United's petition to change and increase certain rates, which was filed on May 22, 2001.¹

At the June 26, 2001 Authority Conference, the Directors voted unanimously to convene a contested case proceeding in this matter. Applying the legal standards for intervention, codified at Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-310, the Directors found that the Consumer Advocate's Petition was filed

¹ *Petition to Intervene*, Docket No. 01-00451, June 12, 2001, pp. 2-3.

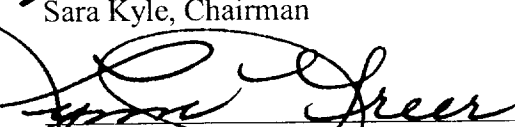
within the proper time period, substantiated that legal interests of the intervenor may be determined in this matter, and demonstrated that the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of this matter would not be impaired by allowing such intervention.

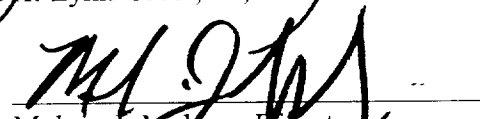
The Directors voted unanimously to grant the Consumer Advocate's Petition and to appoint the Authority's General Counsel or his designee to act as Pre-Hearing Officer to hear preliminary matters prior to the Hearing and to set a procedural schedule to completion.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

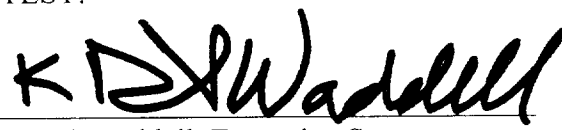
1. A contested case is hereby convened.
2. The Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General is hereby given leave to intervene and participate in this proceeding as its interests may appear and receive copies of any notices, orders or other documents herein.
3. The General Counsel or his designee is appointed Pre-Hearing Officer in this matter to hear preliminary matters and to set a procedural schedule to completion.
4. Any party aggrieved with the Authority's decision in this matter may file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Authority within fifteen (15) days from the date of this Order.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director


Melvin J. Malone, Director

ATTEST:


K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary